

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01029 120811Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-01 MCT-01 SS-15 SP-02
PM-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /050 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7668

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1029

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO
SUBJ: INFORMATION ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ABROAD: UAE

REF: STATE 91578

1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL FOLLOW:

-- A. THERE IS PLO OFFICE IN ABU DHABI.
-- B. OFFICE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE DECEMBER 4, 1971, I.E.,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING UAE'S ENTRY INTO INDEPENDENT STATUS. OFFICE
ENJOYS AT LEAST A QUASI-DIPLOMATIC STATUS (SEE D BELOW) AND PER-
FORMS CONSULAR TYPE SERVICES FOR HOLDERS OF PALESTINIAN TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS. SIZE OF STAFF IS UNKNOWN, BUT BELIEVED BE ABOUT FIVE.
-- C. NO COMPONENT ELEMENTS OF PLO ARE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY
UAE.
-- D. PLO OFFICE ENJOYS AT LEAST QUASI-DIPLOMATIC STATUS. IF IS
LISTED TOGETHER WITH RESIDENT UN AGENCY OFFICES IN PART II OF
JULY 1977 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LIST OF DIPLOMATIC
AND CONSULAR CORPS ACCREDITED TO UAE. PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR IS
ROUTINELY INVITED TO UAE PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS ARRIVAL/
DEPARTURE CEREMONIES FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE, WHERE HE IS
RANKED WITH UN OFFICIALS BEHIND MEMBERS OF REGULAR DIPLOMATIC
CORPS. ONLY DIRECTOR IS INCLUDED IN MFA LIST. FURTHER
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INFORMATION ON HIS ACTUAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IS UNKNOWN
BUT THEY PROBABLY APPROXIMATE THOSE OF REGULAR DIPLOMATS
ACCREDITED HERE.

2. CURRENT PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR IS RIBHI HALLOUM WHO REPLACED
FIRST AND ONLY PREVIOUS DIRECTOR IBRAHIM AL-SAYYID
AL-ZARD IN EARLY 1978. HALLOUM IS NOTORIOUS PALESTINIAN ACTI-

VIST WHO WAS DETAINED AT AMSTERDAM AIRPORT IN 1972 WHILE
TRAVELLING ON AN ALGERIAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND WITH WEAPONS
AND EXPLOSIVES IN SUITCASE.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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